Funds for Women Health and Maternity Programme

2303. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide separate budget allocation for Health and Family Welfare for women's health and maternity related programmes;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government consider it relevant in today's social context, to introduce sex education as a part of the school curriculum as well as for the Adult Education Programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Department of Family Welfare implements various programmes and interventions primarily aiming to improve the health and reducing morbidity & mortality in children and women including infants. The interventions for women and expectant mothers relate to ante-natal and post-natal check-up, improving safe delivery practices, prophylaxis and treatment of material anemia, immunization against tetanus, promotion of birth spacing, improving facilities of 24 hour delivery services at Primary Health Centres, referral transport and emergency obstetric care. These interventions have earmarked allocations within the overall budget allocations of the Department of Family Welfare.

(c) The programme of sex education is conducted by State AIDS Control societies through NGOs. State Department of Education or jointly by these organizations.The programme focuses on raising awareness level about HIV; helping young people resist peer pressure to participate in risky behavior and assist in developing safe and responsible life styles. Teachers and peer educations are trained to conduct the programme among the students. A training tool developed by NACO in this regard has been distributed to all States/UTs for utilization in the programme.